

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 DODE-00 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 AID-20 IGA-02 MC-02 ACDA-19

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APPROVED BY AF/ N: JBLAKE

OASD/ ISA: GBADER

J-5: COL L. WALTERS

OSAA: D. GRAND PRE

DSAA: CAPT CANTACUZENE

OASD/ ISA(SA) DBBRIGGS

PM/ PA: CAPT COCHRANE

PM/ MAS: JHMADDEN

AF/ RA: AJNAVEZ

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R 101726 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

INFO USCINCEUR

USCINCUSNAVEUR

S E C R E T STATE 066167

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS: TS

SUBJECT: TUNISIAN REQUEST SIX YEAR ARMS ACQUISITION PROGRAM

REF: (A) TUNIS 931; (B) TUNIS 867; (C) STATE 024348 (D) STATE

STATE 27844; (E) CHUSLOT 090955 Z(F) TUNIS 1931

1. DEPT AND DOD WISH COMMEND YOUR SKILLFUL HANDLING OF
INITIAL DISCUSSIONS WITH GOT ON LONG- TERM MILITARY ASSIST-
ANCE. WHILE WE WOULD LIKE TO BE AS HELPFUL AS WE CAN IN
ACCOMMODATING REASONABLE LEVEL PROJECTED TUNISIAN MILITARY
REQUIREMENTS UNDER CREDIT, PARTICULARLY AS IT WOULD HELP IN
RECONCILING GOT TO TRANSITION FROM GRANT, WE CANNOT AT THIS
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TIME GO BEYOND POSITION EMBASSY TOOK WITH MINDEF IN INDICATING OUR WILLINGNESS CONSIDER GOT REQUIREMENTS A YEAR AT A TIME.

2. FOLLOWING GUIDANCE IS KEYED TO THE EMBASSY'S RECOMMENDATION PARA 10 REF B:

A. WE WISH TO AVOID ANY IMPLICATION OF A MULTI-YEAR COMMITMENT. IN VIEW OF RESOURCE LIMITATIONS, UNKNOWN FUTURE PRIORITIES AND THE UNCERTAINTIES WE FACE ANNUALLY WITH CONGRESS FOR FUNDS, WE WOULD NOT WANT TO PROVIDE A FORECAST OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE LEVELS EVEN WITH USUAL CAVEATS, BECAUSE OF OUR INABILITY TO ASSURE THAT THOSE FUNDS WOULD BE AVAILABLE. EMBASSY MAY WANT TO EXPLAIN THAT

SINCE CONGRESS APPROPRIATES MONEY ON AN ANNUAL BASIS, WE HAVE NO RECOURSE BUT TO CONSIDER REQUIREMENTS A YEAR AT A TIME.

B. WE WILLING TO CONSIDER UPWARD ADJUSTMENTS TO PROJECTED CREDIT LEVELS AS NEED DEMONSTRATED AND FUNDING PICTURE CLARIFIES. WE WOULD NOT WISH, IN ANY EVENT, GIVE GOT IMPRESSION USG PREPARED TO UNDERTAKE CREDIT FINANCING ALL DOLS 42 MILLION REQUIREMENTS AND WOULD WANT EMBASSY TO ENCOURAGE GOT TO LOOK TO OTHERS AS WELL.

C. THERE NO FORESEEABLE CHANCE OF REHABILITATING F-5 A AIRCRAFT AS F-5 A'S ARE NO LONGER PRODUCED AND THERE ARE NO REPEAT NO F-5'S IN USG INVENTORY. EMBASSY MAY INDICATE USG WILLINGNESS IN PRINCIPLE TO CONSIDER SALE OF FOLLOW-ON AIRCRAFT TO F-86.

D. FMS CREDIT RATES ARE DETERMINED BY COST OF MONEY TO USG. SINCE THAT COST FLUCTUATES, WE CANNOT GUARANTEE A GIVEN FUTURE INTEREST LEVEL.

E. NO FINAL DECISION HAS YET BEEN TAKEN ON TERMINATION GRANT MATERIEL ASSISTANCE AT BEGINNING OR END OF FY-75. FYI: WE WILL ADVISE YOU IMMEDIATELY WHEN DECISION IS MADE. END FYI.

F. REGRET FOREIGN MILITARY CREDIT SALES PROGRAM FOR
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FY 73 ALREADY OVER COMMITTEED.

3. FOLLOWING KEYED TO QUESTIONS REFTEL(E)

4. GOT SECURITY ASSISTANCE CATEGORIES: WE HOPE TO HELP GOT WHERE WE CAN WITH SIX- YEAR ARMS ACQUISITION PROGRAM BUT OUR ASSISTANCE IS LIKELY TO TAKE FORM FMS CREDIT.

5. FOLLOW- ON FIGHTER AIRCRAFT: NO COMMITMENT MADE BY USG. OUR INTENTIONS CAREFULLY POINTED OUT IN USG NOTE TO GOT APRIL 19, 1972 (STATE 066023) THAT ADVISED THAT USG IS UNABLE TO FORECAST AVAILABILITY OF MAP FUNDS OR OF SUIT- ABLE REPLACEMENT AIRCRAFT BUT AGREED TO EXAMINE QUESTION IN FUTURE.

6. NAVY ASSISTANCE: REFTEL IMPLIES THAT CT VIEWS GOT SIX- YEAR PLAN AS SEPARATE FROM GOT PLAN FOR NAVY. IT LIKELY HELP FUTURE PLANNING IF GOT INTEGRATED NAVAL RE- QUIREMENTS WITH ARMY AND AIR FORCE NEEDS. SPECIFIC INFO RELATING TO SHIP LOANS BEING DEVELOPED. IN PRINCIPLE, AGREE WITH ADVANTAGES PERCEIVED BY EMBASSY FOR SIXTH

FLEET PRESENCE AND HAVE NO OBJECTION TO CONSIDER U. S. ASSISTANCE FOR NAVY NEEDS IF SO DESIRED BY GOT/ MOD WITHIN OVERALL PRIORITIES. NAVY, RECOGNIZING IMPORTANCE OF TUNISIA TO SIXTH FLEET, IS EXPLORING EVERY POSSIBILITY FOR SHIP LOANS INCLUDING PGS(PARA 2, REFTEL F) AND WE EX- PECT TO BE ABLE TO FORWARD SPECIFIC INFORMATION IN A WEEK OR TWO. ANY SHIP LOAN WOULD BE ON UNDERSTANDING (PARA 4 TUNIS 867) THAT GOT WOULD PAY REHABILITATION, TRANSPORTATION AND OPERATING COSTS. IF GOT DESIRES, WE ALSO WILLING CONSIDER APPROPRIATE NAVY ASSISTANCE UNDER AVAILABLE CREDIT. IF U. S. ASSISTANCE EVENTUALLY PROVIDED FOR GOT NAVY, IT MAY BECOME APPROPRIATE TO INCLUDE NAVY PERSONNEL ON USLOT. FYI: RADM H. E. GERHARD, JR., OFFICE OF CNO, PLANS TO VISIT IRAN IN MID APRIL. RADM GERHARD IS WILLING TO INCLUDE STOP IN TUNIS ENROUTE FOR DISCUSSION WITH COUNTRY TEAM OF SHIP SALES OR LOANS WHICH MIGHT BE POSSIBLE. PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER VISIT IS DESIRED AND MOST CONVENIENT DATE. END FYI.

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7. SINCE IT WILL BE SEVERAL MONTHS BEFORE DECISION MADE ON FY 75 GRANT PROGRAM, BELIEVE AT EMBASSY' S DISCRETION FOLLOWING POINTS SHOULD BE MADE TO GOT AT APPROPRIATE - LEVEL.

A. USG PARTICIPATION IN HELPING WITH SIX- YEAR ACQUISITION PLAN LIKELY TO BE LIMITED TO FMS CREDIT, PROBABLY AT ABOUT THE SAME TERMS AS FY 72 AGREEMENT.

B. USG ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATIONS PRECLUDES PROJECTION USG PARTICIPATION MORE THAN ONE YEAR AT A TIME.

C. AS IN THE PAST, GOT SHOULD SEEK ASSISTANCE FOR SIX-YEAR PLAN FROM OTHER FRIENDLY NATIONS AS WELL.

D. USG WILLINGNESS CONSIDER FOLLOW- ON AIRCRAFT NEEDS SPECIFICALLY MADE IN TERMS OF POSSIBLE SALE.

8. REGRET THIS TELEGRAM CANNOT BE MORE AFFIRMATIVE IN RESPONSE TO ACTION REQUESTED. SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS ARE EXPECTED TO UNDERGO EXTENSIVE EVALUATION BOTH IN SCOPE AND PURPOSE BEFORE THE CONGRESS PASSES FOREIGN ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION FOR FY 1974. ROGERS

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